

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Fluid control apparatus for use with a surgical irrigation and aspiration instrument adapted for irrigation and aspiration of a surgical site located in a small elastic chamber, said fluid control apparatus comprising
a source of irrigation fluid,
irrigation fluid conduit means for conducting said irrigation fluid to said surgical site,
aspiration fluid conduit means for removing fluid from said surgical site,
controllable pump means in fluid communication with said aspiration fluid conduit for providing a source of suction in said aspiration fluid conduit,
pressure sensitive transducer means in fluid communication with said aspiration fluid conduit for sensing the pressure in said aspiration fluid conduit and generating an electrical control signal for said pump means, and
pressure relief fluid conduit means connecting said source of irrigation fluid to said aspiration fluid conduit means,
controllable valve means in said pressure relief fluid conduit means,
control means for controlling said controllable valve means.
2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said controllable valve means is an electrically controllable valve.
3. The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein said control means for said electrically controllable valve is an electrical switch.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein said electrical switch is a foot-actuated switch.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said pump means is a peristaltic pump.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1 additionally comprising check valve means in said irrigation fluid conduit means.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1 additionally comprising shut-off valve means in said irrigation fluid conduit means.

8. A modified T-connection fitting for use in a flow control apparatus, said fitting comprising

a first rigid tubular fluid conduit having a female fluid connection fitting at a first end and a male fluid connection fitting at a second end,

a second rigid tubular fluid conduit having one end in fluid communication with said first fluid conduit, arranged substantially at right angles to said first fluid conduit,

a third rigid tubular fluid conduit having one end in fluid communication with said second fluid conduit, arranged generally at right angles to said second fluid conduit and parallel to said first fluid conduit.